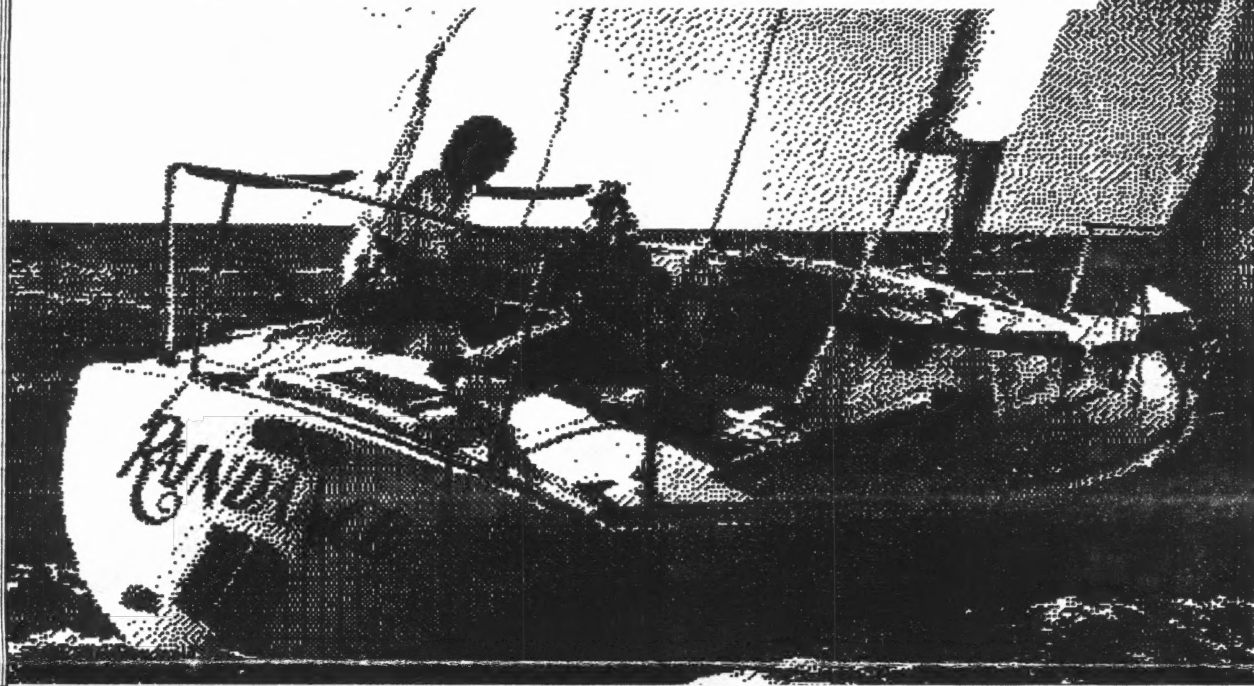


The MVACE NEWS

The Newsletter of the
Miami Valley ATARI Computer Enthusiasts

Volume 6, Number 8

\$1.00 August-September 1987



IN THIS ISSUE

<u>Column</u>	<u>Page</u>
Atari News Update (Zmag)	1
MVACE Information	2
MVACE Officers	2
Atarifest Announcement	2
Editor's Column (Bruce Hansford)	3
ST Librarian (Doug Hodson)	4
Computerfest Info (DMA)	4
8-Bit Librarian (Earl Breon)	6
MVACE On-line (Gayle Smith)	6
ACE BBS Help Sheet	6
Shoe's Corner (Steve Schoemann)	7
MVACE Vice (Mike Kohli)	7
Final CES News (Antic)	8
10 Secrets of Atari (Zmag)	8
New Atari MIDI Ad	9
Oasis BBS Review	9
Treasurer Report (Marty Freed)	12
Proposed MVACE By-laws	12
Sword of Kadash Review (Kervyn Mach)	14
ST Disk Drives Book Review (Dan Catterlin)	14
Disk Order Form	15
MVACE Membership Application	16

ZMAG

ATARI NEWS UPDATE

The Mega ST and the SX212 modem are at the last step before arriving. We have received pre-production samples. These are the first units off the line with all the same components, packaging, and production techniques as the real thing. We get a small number of these to test and make sure there are no last-minute glitches. When we give the go-ahead, the next step is real production.

The Atari PC is looking likely for later this Summer. The XEP-80 (for the 8-bits) is waiting on one part which turned out to have an incredibly long lead time on orders -- once we have the part we'll turn these around ASAP. The SLM804 Laser Printer is waiting on one final component also, as well as the final version of the software drivers that support it.

New software from Atari includes the first titles in the Arrakis Advantage series of middle-school-level educational programs. There will be 17 in total, of which 4 have hit the stores already and the rest are in various stages of finalization.

Shortly after the SX212 modem hits, we will release an add-on package for 8-bit owners which is to contain an SIO cable and the program SX EXPRESS by Keith Ledbetter, as well as the new handler file. Of course, SX212 owners with the 8-bits can also use it through the 850 interface using existing terminal programs set up for Hayes-compatible modems.

The blitter chip is working and is in the pre-production Mega ST's mentioned above. The AMY chip is still in

Continued on Page 3

MVACE

Miami Valley ATARI Computer Enthusiasts

THE MVACE NEWS

The MVACE NEWS is published monthly by Miami Valley ATARI Computer Enthusiasts, PO Box 24221, Huber Heights, OH 45424. Copyright 1987, Miami Valley ATARI Computer Enthusiasts. Individual authors retain all rights to articles appearing in the MVACE NEWS. For items reprinted from other sources, contact the original publication indicated in the article. Unless otherwise noted, material contained in the MVACE NEWS may be reproduced in whole or in part by any other nonprofit organization or for other noncommercial purposes. Acknowledgement should be given to the proper author and publication.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS TO NEWSLETTER

Articles may be submitted for publication at meetings, or mailed to the Newsletter Editor, or down-loaded (or up-loaded) to the editor by arrangement. The deadline for articles is one week prior to the beginning of the new month... ie: for August issue have articles submitted by July 24.

ADVERTISING

Advertising in MVACE NEWS is an economical way to promote your products or services to a key audience involved in personal computing. As of this issue, our mailing list exceeds 170 copies and is on the increase. Four different sized ads are available: business card \$5.00, quarter-page \$10.00, half-page \$15.00, and full page \$25.00. Ad copy may be camera ready or text files (1st Word or ASCII for ST) and must be received by the NEWS no later than the publication deadline described above. Make checks or money orders payable to Miami Valley ACE

ABOUT THE ACES (MVACE)

The Miami Valley ATARI Computer Enthusiasts began in 1982 as the Huber Heights Atari User Group (HHAUG), but soon outgrew the Huber Heights part and started to serve the entire Miami Valley area. Many members are civilian and military employees of Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

Membership in MVACE is \$20.00 for the first year and \$15.00 renewal annually after that. Membership includes a subscription to the MVACE NEWS, and free access to the extensive MVACE 8-bit and ST Public Domain Disk Libraries. MVACE has a general business meeting held on the second Saturday of each month and an informal Swap and Copy Session on the third Saturday at CAYAC (Kittyhawk School), 5758 Harshmanville Road, Huber Heights. Both meetings begin at 9:30 AM and end by about 12:00 noon.

MVACE welcomes all visitors and especially new members. We thank you for joining us and we know you will enjoy your membership in our family. Please feel free to ask questions at the meetings, whether they be of an Officer, a Member, or of the club in general during informal question & answer session at meeting's end. We all remember being new to all this.

EXPERT HELP

Any, and I do mean any, help needed with a program, application, or just plain getting the computer to do what you want it to do will be offered. The members of MVACE have a lot of experience in working with many programs, so if there is a problem, someone in the group has the answer.

MVACE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Warren Kearney - Dayton -
254-7259

VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Mike Kohli - Dayton - 274-1996

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Marty Freed - Dayton - 276-3817

ST DISK LIBRARIAN

Doug Hodson - Dayton - 252-3267

8-BIT DISK LIBRARIAN

Earl Breon - Huber Heights -
233-6266

SYSOP

Gayle "Smitty" Smith - Huber
Heights 233-5385

MVACE NEWS EDITOR

Bruce Hansford - Kettering
439-1993/4958



ATARI FEST ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNOUNCING!!!! The 1987
Magic-Atari Show August 28-30 at the
Southfield Hilton Featuring
Seminars by

Neil Harris (Atari)
Gorden Monnier (Michtron)
David Small (Magic-Sac)
Tim Purvis (Michtron)
Frank Foster (Hybrid Arts)

Also, a MIDI-Music concert, sponsored
by Hybrid Arts, featuring
professional musicians!

PLUS!!!

MIDI-MAZE, a multi-computer,
multi-player maze game played on 16
Atari ST computers!

First prize in this contest is a Casio
keyboard, plus software (an \$800 value!).

TICKETS!

Advanced tickets are available by mail
One-day pass \$4 At the door \$5
Three day pass \$8 At the door \$10

To order, send check to:
The Atari Magic Show
28111 Imperial Drive
Warren, MI 48093

For more information, call the HOTLINE at
(313)751-8291 (recording).

development, and may still see the light of day -- some day. AMY is a stubborn beast.

Speaking of stubborn, Microsoft Write is also still in development. Nearly finished now, too, although a few small bugs remain to be expunged.

SHOW NEWS: Atari made history by becoming the first computer manufacturer to exhibit at NAMM, the National Association of Music Merchants show in Chicago. The ST was present throughout the show in virtually every booth where there were MIDI instruments. Atari sales people at the show were besieged by music dealers eager to sign up as Atari dealers. By the time this 4-day event was over, there were literally hundreds of dealer applications waiting to be approved. Before NAMM, Atari had 50 music stores as dealers -- it looks like there will be 250 when the new dealers are selected.

In other news from NAMM, Keyboard magazine announced the results of its latest reader survey. The Atari ST computer has rocketed into the #1 slot in the vital "Intent-to-buy" category ahead of perennial leader Macintosh! The word in Atari HQ is "Today MIDI -- tomorrow, Desktop Publishing!"

(C) Copyright 1987 by Atari Corporation, all rights reserved. For the exclusive use of GENie members, no-charge bulletin boards, and Atari user groups. May be reprinted only with this notice intact.



OPINIONS AND OBSERVATIONS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

by Bruce Hansford
MVACE NEWS Editor

COMPUTERFEST UPDATE

Computerfest '87 is coming! If you have never been to a Computerfest before, you will probably be very surprised. The 12th (I believe) annual Computerfest, coming to Hara Arena on Saturday and Sunday the 22nd and 23rd of August, will be bigger and better than ever. I have been told that the organizing committee is expecting around 6000 attendance this year.

There will be computer user groups, demos, lectures, flea market, retailers, and wholesalers galore. And MVACE will have one of the most impressive displays of any user group around. We have 32 linear feet of display space this year, and we intend to draw the crowds.

We're working on having a full MIDI demo with three synthesizers and a drum machine. Hopefully we'll be demonstrating the new state-of-the-art MIDI software, MASTER TRACKS PRO for the ST from Passport.

We will also have STs set up running Macintosh software using Magic Sac and IBM software using PC-Ditto. We will have an area set aside as a flea market for members who want to sell used software or hardware that's been laying around gathering dust.

Another exciting event is on Saturday the 22nd at 2:00 PM, we will be hosting a full-blown demo of WordPerfect ST presented by Brian Embree, the WordPerfect Regional Marketing Manager. Many thanks to Steve Schoemann for

arranging this demo for us.

We need your help, all you loyal MVACE members. We will be needing people Saturday morning (8-ish) and Sunday evening (6-ish) to help unload, set up, break down, and load the equipment that we'll be using for the weekend. If you feel really inspired, you can even volunteer for a two or four hour stint at the tables demoing or selling or whatever during the weekend. If you feel that you'd like to help, please call me at 439-1993 and let me know (you can leave a message on my machine if I'm not home). Or you can call Ed Fisher at 293-6927.

PC-DITTO UPDATE

In the last issue of the NEWS I wrote about an upcoming product that runs IBM PC software on the Atari ST. This product, PC-Ditto, is now in regular use on my computer. I even got an I.B. 5.25" disk drive to put to use all the PC software I've been collecting over the last few years. By the way, a lot of this software is now in our ST Disk Library.

Does it work? Yes, very well, but SSSLLLOOOOWWWW. According to several benchmarks run against it, it runs at about one-third of the speed of a PC (which runs at 4.77 mhz). But considering that this is a purely software emulator, that is still terrific. Being as PC-Ditto is software, it takes about 30 instructions in ST code for each instruction in the PC software, according to Darek Mihoka, the author of the Atari 8-bit and Apple II emulators. He also says that PC-Ditto uses "very good code".

PC-Ditto is produced by Avant-Garde Systems (actually, two people, Bill and Ginny Teal of Jacksonville, Florida). Congratulations and thanks, Bill and Ginny, for a great product. I hope the pirates don't eat you alive. This is too good a product to be wiped out by people too cheap to pay for the software that they use.

Current version shortcomings are:

1. PC-Ditto only runs on the color monitor. Monochrome support should be available on the next version (free to registered owners), due in the fall.

2. PC-Ditto works on the hard disk, but only recognizes partition 0. So when I use it on my HD, drive C: D: E: and F: are all drive C:, the first partition on my disk. This should also be fixed in the next version.

3. PC-DFMT.COM, the formatting program that comes with PC-Ditto doesn't always like to format a blank disk without error. But you can overcome that by using the format command that comes on DOS.

4. Self-booting disks don't boot. But Bill knows why and has already fixed it for the next version.

5. No mouse support yet. Coming.

6. No MIDI support. Coming.

7. No time and date carry over from the Atari GEM time and date. Coming.

8. Not all DOS's work with PC-Ditto. IBM and Compaq DOS work great. I have used MS-DOS 2.11, PC-DOS 3.2, and PC-DOS 3.3 all quite successfully. However only versions 3.2 and up give full support to 720k double-sided 80-track 3 1/2" disks.

By the way, Bill is up on GENie ST SIG on a weekly basis answering questions and accepting suggestions. Fantastic product support, I'd say.

APOLOGIA

I made a boo-boo in last month's issue. On the last page under the helicopter I wrote "This Newsletter was produced entirely (except ads) with Publishing Partner (1.02) on a NEC P6 24-pin dot-matrix printer." Wrong.

I forgot about the graphics that I use to add a little variety to the NEWS. I use a lot of public domain graphics, but I also use converted clip-art from Print-Master by Unison World, Easy-Draw Personal Draw-Art by MiGraph, and LabelMaster Elite also from MiGraph. Credit where credit's due, right?

Continued on Page 4

FCC STRIKES AGAIN

The following is an excerpt from Jerry Pournelle's column, "A User's View", from the June 29, 1987 issue of Info World magazine:

The FCC is contemplating a move that some say will raise the cost of on-line conference and database services by a factor of between five and 15, depending on whose estimates you trust.

It sounds fair in theory: The commissioners will allow the Baby Bell companies to impose "access charges" on companies providing networks that allow local access to "enhanced data services" such as Dow Jones, CompuServe, BIX, etc.

I first learned this from my friend Sue Rosenberg, who sent this message:

Spread the word that the FCC commissioners, those great folks, have voted 4-0 to subject computer users of telephone access services such as our favorite network to substantially higher fees, estimated to be on the order of \$4.50 to \$5.40 an hour. My guess is that those estimates are low. This order is scheduled to go into effect on January 1. But there is time for all of us to express our opinion (I'm sure we all have the same opinion) about this proposal. Send your comments to:

FCC Secretary's Office
1919 M Street N.W.
Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Refer to "Interstate Access Charges Exemption for Enhanced Service Providers CC Docket 87-208". You can get a copy of this order by calling the FCC at (202)632-7000.

Sue adds that the FCC by law "must" respond to citizen inquiries.

ARTICLE FORMATS

I sure appreciate those of you who have been donating articles for the NEWS. I need more of you to share your talents with us, however. I know we have many talented members who use many and varied software packages and know how to write. Share yourself! Write an article on something you are familiar with relating to Atari or computers in general (or anything else, for that matter). Write a tutorial or review, I don't care!

However if you do write something for the NEWS, I would request submissions in the following format:

Files should be either in First Word format or ASCII (print file) format. The ASCII files may come on 3 1/2" disks or 5.25" disks in Atari 8-bit, ST, Magic, or IBM format. I'll take 'em all!

Please, no left margin, and turn off your right-justify as I hate to have to remove all those spaces spread out

through the document.

I would like to have your submissions by the Swap and Copy session on the third Saturday of each month. If you can't make the meeting, you can upload your file to me in 300 or 1200 baud. Call me at (513)439-1993. OR you can upload it to the new ACE INFORMATION SERVICE Ltd. (Our new BBS) at 223-9500. Just make sure you call me and let me know that it's there and where I can find it.

Keep those articles coming. See you at the next MVACE meeting.

Bruce

P.S. Don't forget the First Annual MVACE Picnic on the 30th of August. Read Joyce Kohli's article for more info.



The ST is giving me some pleasant headaches. Just when I start getting the ST library in order, I realize that this ATARI machine can not only run ST software (of course) but now IBM PC and Apple Macintosh plus CP/M and Atari 8 bit software. So how does this affect the ST library? It doesn't, it just means the ST library will be a subset of a much larger library I call the 'ATARI ST RUN ANYTHING AVAILABLE SOFTWARE' library! This means the current library will probably quadruple in size.

Obviously, this 'SUPER LIBRARY' cannot be handled by one person (I will try). For now I can keep track of library organization, but I need software to put into these libraries. As shown at the last meeting, GENIE has a huge number of files available for the IBM and Macintosh computers. There must be people in the club with their own large selection of public domain software for the IBM or Mac. If you are one of these people please contact me so we can 'port' it over to the ST and get it into our library.

Moving IBM software from 5.25" disk format to the 3.5" format is no problem, I have an external 5.25" drive. Reading Macintosh formatted

3.5" disks will not be a problem in a couple of weeks. With a strong IBM and Mac library in our group, along with the current ST library, there is no reason to buy any other computer except a second ST (think MEGA)!

DISK #76

ACCESSRY.ARC - Several desk accessories.
COPIERS.ARC - Several disk/file/sector copiers.
DIABLO.ARC - Low res game. You figure it out.
ELDICAD.ARC - Electronics Diagram CAD from the Netherlands.
FACE.ARC - Face Animator. I couldn't get it to run right, but I don't know GFA Basic either.
MOBZPLOT.ARC - 3D Plotting program.

DISK #77

BESTICON.DAT - Icons for STart icon loader.
CLIP_001.ARC - 14 high res tiny clip pictures.
CLIP_002.ARC - More clip art stuff.
DLII.ARC - Incredible disk utilities package.
MOVIE.ARC - Movie Construction Set.
RRAMDISK.ARC - Another reset-proof ramdisk.
SPEAK.ARC - Says what you type. Dutch docs.
SPELL14.ARC - Checks 1st Word and ASCII files.

DISK #78

DRIVER4.PRQ - Rev. 4.36 upgrade for Magic Sac.
DSLIDBII.ARC - Latest Deluxe Slideshow.
GBUSTERS.ARC - Music Studio file with Paintworks pic. Lo res.
HD-SCAN.ARC - Hard disk utility similar to Norton Utilities.
PAVANE.ARC - Music Studio file.
PCDITTO.ARC - List of working IBM PC software.
PRINTSET.ARC - Printer control accessory.
RAMBUFFER.ARC - Ramdisk/printer accessory.
ROBONUDE.ARC - Tiny formatted pictures. R-rated.
SLOWDOWN.ARC - Causes the ST to run very slowly.
STABLE.ARC - Convert Wico trackball to ST mouse.
TRDEMRK1.ARC - Collection of old trademarks. (Hi res clip art)
TRDEMRK2.ARC - Another collection of trademarks.
UNPIT.ARC - Unpacks Packit I, II & III files from Mac. Good for picture files you want to convert with PICSWITCH.
VANITY.COM - R rated picture for PC-DITTO.
ZMAG-ST1.ARC - Z magazine ST-Report #1
ZMAG-ST2.ARC - Z magazine ST-Report #2

See you at the next MVACE meeting!

Doug

Computerfest™ '87

Dayton, Ohio

August 22 - 23

COMPUTER & ELECTRONIC CONVENTION & FLEA MARKET

Computers User Groups Paper Disks Parts Books New Equipment Software Keyboards

New Equipment Demonstrations Software Keyboards Used Equipment Modems Printers Joysticks

Cables Systems Monitors Talks Disk Drives Paper Seminars Computers User Groups Paper

Features For Attendees

Speakers, Seminars, User Group information and Product Demonstrations
Drawing each day for a Personal Computer *
Hourly Door prize drawing *
Club Booths for many different computers
Dealers from all over the Country will be here
Many private individuals sell/trade excess equipment
Assistance for new owners
* Must be present to win

Location

HARA ARENA
1001 Shiloh Springs Road
Dayton, Ohio 45415
(513) 278-4776

Time & Date

Computerfest™ '87 will be
held August 22-23, 1987.
Saturday from 10am to 6pm
Sunday from 10am to 5pm

Computerfest™ '87 is held INDOORS, so don't worry about the weather.
We will have over 25,000 sqft of exhibition area filled with great
bargains.

Ticket Information & Parking

Admission is \$3.00 at the door only each day.
Children under 12 years admitted free with an adult.
Parking is FREE and there is a lot of it.

Dealer Information

Flea market spaces are \$15.00 before July 1, 1987 (postmarked),
\$20.00 thereafter. This includes an 8'x 6' space, an 8' table and 1
chair. End spaces are additional. Professional booths please write.
An 8'x8' backdropped booth with side rails and 8' draped table with 2
chairs is \$85.00 before July 1. \$100.00 after that date. 110 vac and
security provided.

For more Information contact:

**General Information,
Chairman**
Terry Morrow
415 Winding Trail
Xenia, Ohio 45385
513-372-6146

Booth Sales
Mark Hanslip
143 Schloss Lane
Dayton, Ohio 45418
513-268-7225

Program Advertising
John R. Hargreaves
1125 Carlisle Avenue
Dayton, Ohio 45420
513-258-2356

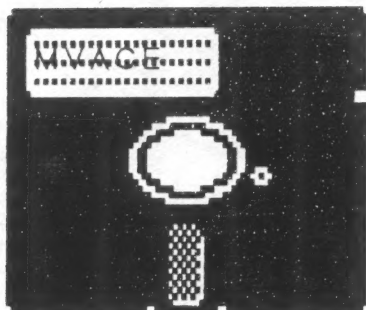
Speakers
Tony Snyder
407 W. Fairview Ave.
Dayton, Ohio 45405
513-275-7913

Or Call us for Computerfest™ '87 updates on our BBS 513-293-1754

User Groups Paper Disks Parts Books New Equipment Software Keyboards Used Equipment

DAYTON MICROCOMPUTER ASSOCIATION





A WORD FROM THE 8-BIT LIBRARY

by Earl Breon
MVACE 8-bit Librarian

Did everyone miss my article in last month's MVACE NEWS? Sorry, I didn't get on to Bruce in time, but I am back with new and exciting programs for the 8-bit Library.

In August we will have a game called DANDY. This is a Dungeon-type game that lets you set up your own dungeons and save them to disk. If there is interest, I will put dungeons that members make into the Library so that others can be challenged by them. We will also have a special Graphics disk that will have a password or code to it. Now there will be three ways to get the password: 1. You can try out your hacking and break the code yourself, 2. You can help out the SYSOP (Smitty) and the Librarian (me) by filling out three of the program review forms on three of your favorite public domain programs (this will help the SYSOP and the Librarian to know what you like, and also help us build a documentation library to help members with our programs), or 3. You can stay tuned to your local MVACE BBS where you will find clues under the ACE message base.

I have just joined GENIE, so I will try to download a couple of programs for the club each month. I would like the help of other members that belong to the information services to do the same. We've always had the best PD library around... let's keep it that way.

At July's meeting a discovery was made. If you use First XLEnt Word Processor and have had problems using the search icon, instead of pressing Return like the book tells you, try a Control-Delete. It worked for us. If you have any other helpful hints, write them down and give them to ontario of the officers and they will see to it that they get into the NEWS OR you could write an article for the NEWS.... it would make Bruce very HAPPY if you did. See you at the August meeting. Earl

MVACE ON - LINE

By SMITTY

After a long absence, I can now sit and find the time to give you news about the new bulletin board.

Our thanks go to the two club members who have loaned their hardware to MVACE to make this information service (BBS) possible.

Now I would like to tell you my feelings about the operation on this BBS. When my wife, Joanie, and I started The Cat House BBS, we were told that to survive in this area we needed pirated files, profanity in message bases and obscene jokes. This is exactly what we found. However, we dared to be different and within less than a year The Cat had become one of the leaders with well over 300 active users. We also had 72 out of state users that were regulars. We believe the contributing factors were new public domain files with documentation that had not been published in Analog, Antic, or been on CompuServe. The message bases were informative and some were on the lighter side. We relied on user input for their likes, dislikes and ideas.

Using the same format for the new ACE INFORMATION SERVICE which MVACE is sponsoring, I believe that we will be the number one BBS in the Dayton area, then we will start working on the rest of the country.

The new service will be the first in the area to accommodate CRC file transfers as well as XMODEM and YMODEM. The user will be able to toggle anywhere between 10 column and 120 column screens while on line. We will also support ASCII and ATASCII which will allow us to support any type of computer.

Included in this newsletter on page 9 is a report on the software.

The hardware for this service includes Atari 130XE (320K), SH204 (20MB hard drive), ICD-MIO (1MB), Avatec 300/1200bps modem, 2 1050 double density floppy drive, and of course a color monitor, printer, and a long phone line.

By next month I will be telling you about all of the new and exciting things (no crashes?) that has happen with our information service.

REM. We need all your help to make this system work. So pick out your favorite program and write a review that we can post on the service. Better yet, put your thinking cap on and finish that

program that you started and never got around to finishing
Type to you later

Gayle (Smitty) Smith
SYSOP
ACE INFORMATION SERVICE
513-233-9500
300/1200Bps 24hr 7day

HELP

BBS New User Information & HELP File

New Users on the System should keep this file handy for their future calls. It will aid them in learning the functions on the system.

^S=Stop/Start ^C=Break/Abort
(^ = CONTROL KEY + KEY)

A-Ascii/Atascii toggle translation.
(Atari uses ATASCII).

B-Bulletins posted on this BBS.

C-Checks for electronic mail.

D-DATE BASE - Help and text files available on this BBS.

E-Enter a message into the system.

F-Directory of files 8-BIT ATARI available on this BBS.

G-Goodbye or log off the system.

H-Help file. This explains the functions of operation on this BBS.

I-Directory of files available for ST on this BBS.

L-Leave E-mail.

M-Private message to the Sysop. See personnel list in DATA Base.

N-News and information DATA base.

O-Other BBS phone numbers.

R-Read messages posted in one of the message bases. Use (Z) to change bases.

S-Displays the users status on the BBS.

T-Allows you to select between either 40 col. or 80 col. width.

U-Upload command to send a file to the BBS.

Y-Yell for the Sysop.

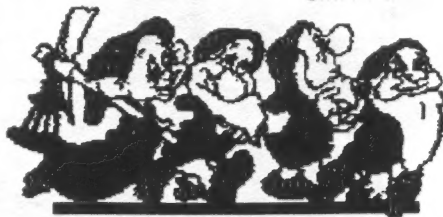
*-Will allow you to read only new messages in the message bases.

?-Prints the main menu.

If you need further help after reading this BBS Help file, you should Yell for the sysop or leave a message to him if he is away. Use the [L] key to SMITTY or use [M].

You can DownLoad this file from the DATA BASE [D].

SMITTY



SHOE'S CORNER SHOE'S CORNER

by Steven M. Schoemann
MVACE



As most of you know, the motto of Atari Corporation, for the last year or two, has been "Power Without the Price". I would like to suggest a new motto: "Promise Without the Product" sounds appropriate. If any reader has other suggestions, please let me know. I will be happy to print them in this column. For over a year the Atari community has been waiting for the eight-bit 80-column expander and the whole community has been anticipating the new 1200 baud modem. Ever heard of VAPORWARE??

At one time everyone was talking about the hardware expander to the ST which promised compatibility with the IBM PC? This project has been put on hold. What about the CD ROM? I will admit I never liked the idea of the CD ROM -- There just isn't enough software for it. Currently there are rumors that the MEGA STs and the laser printer have been cancelled. The Mega would be a great loss. The laser printer is no loss at approximately \$1500 since other laser printers are already being discounted at under this price level and have memory built into them. The Atari Laser would have no memory built in and would have to be dependent on the Mega for it's memory. It would take at least a two megabyte machine to drive the laser printer.

While I am complaining about Atari, let's mention quality control... something that Atari seems to have forgotten (shades of Commodore). I constantly hear complaints from several dealers. I know about the quality of the current STs. Dealers are saying that about 30-40 percent of the machines they receive from Atari are defective. The worst part of this is that in many cases they are not finding the machines repairable and are having to replace the whole mother board. It is interesting to note that this is a dealer expense, and items are received from Atari as is. I wonder at the legality of this. Atari, I am sure, will claim that they give dealers a 4 percent rebate in lieu of a warranty. So the rather puny 90 day warranty of Atari is not even an Atari warranty, but rather a dealer warranty. Atari claims that they would like to increase their dealer base from about 500 to at least 5000. How can they expect to accomplish this when they produce "Products Which Won't Perform".

How is the Magic Sac doing? Well,

from what I have seen, it certainly works well. Almost all of the major software can be run now. If you feel that you need some Macintosh software, I would advise you to go ahead and purchase the Magic Sac. The developer, David Small, is still improving the product by upgrading the software constantly. The only item which is missing is a disk drive which will read Macintosh disks directly. Let's face it... using a Macintosh so that you can transfer your disks over to your Atari is a great inconvenience. This problem should be corrected shortly when Data Pacific releases a device which will allow you to use your ST drives as true Macintosh drives. Supposedly, this will include the internal drive as well.

For those of you who haven't seen PC-Ditto -- well you should. PC-Ditto allows you to use virtually all of the IBM programs on your ST. Those people who have STs therefore have probably the most versatile computer in the industry. If you wonder how I read all of those 5.25" disks with my ST.... well, your question has been answered in that there are at least two companies in the US which produce plug-compatible 5.25" drives for the ST. There is also some talk of a local Dayton, Ohio company producing a drive for the ST. We should know if this is true by the next MVACE meeting. See you then.

Steve



MVACE VICE BY MIKE KOHLI

.....

Well this month's article will be short. At the last meeting we tried a new format and I think it worked well. The new format consisted of a theme, discussed generally in the main meeting, then breaking into separate groups, 8 or 16 bit. We used word processing as a main theme and this month the theme will be tele-communications in preparation for the new BBS. First I hope to have Smitty talk about the progress he is making, before we split into our separate groups. Then we'll have some people talk about how to get on line and

what programs to use.

This meeting I hope to added a new part to the meeting. This will consist of a question period without answers, as suggested by some of the members. While the answers will not be given at the time you asked the questions we will ask for volunteers to help questioner (sic). We will also publish the answers in the next news letter, giving some of you a chance to show what type of talent we have in the club. If it seems like I am trying to get more people involved in the meetings, you're right. I have seen what happens to a group when only a few people dominate the activities. I was very encouraged when at the break two members, Bob Warman and Boyd Bradford, reminded me of their willingness to demo for the 8-bit systems. By September I hope to have a tentative plan for the the next four months. Any suggestions you may have would be welcome so please call me at the number listed on page 2.

We interrupt this article for a word from the boss.....

PICNIC!!

Hil This is Joyce, and I could use your help. I am putting together the First Annual MVACE picnic for the club.... including spouses and children. The date for the picnic is August 30th and the place is *Caesar's Creek*. We'll start at 12:00 noon and eat at around 2:00. Bring a covered dish, a dessert and your swimming gear (lawn chairs and hibachis welcome, too). The club will provide the meat and pop. I hope to have the details worked out by the August meeting. So I could use any help you can give. Please call me at 274-1996 for suggestions or to help with the planning. If you plan to be there, please call so we have an idea how many will be there. Just one last comment HELPPPI! Joyce Kohli

Well this has gone on long enough so I will leave you with one last thought, I encourage you to learn what is new in both the 8 and 16 bit demos, so if you want to see why the 8 bit system is still an excellent system or what the 16 bit system can do, please feel free to go to the demo you choose. Bye for now from your MVACE VICE.

Mike



FINAL CES NEWS

ANTIC PUBLISHING INC., COPYRIGHT 1987

REPRINTED BY PERMISSION

By/NAT FRIEDLAND

ANTIC EDITOR

Broderbund is jumping into the ST marketplace with Art Director and Film Director, a DEGAS-quality paint program that will be packaged together with an animation module for \$79.95. This software, originally designed by the Hungarians who did ST Battlezone, is expected to ship in August. Features include: rescale, stretch, distort, bend, bulge, spin, perspective, scroll and spin.

Not quite as far along is the ST version of Broderbund's all-time bestseller, Print Shop. It is due this fall at \$49.95 and will be similar to the sophisticated Macintosh version. Also coming from Broderbund this fall is the ST Karateka at \$34.95.

Timeworks Desktop Publisher this fall will join the company's ST word processor, spreadsheet and database software.

Spitfire 1940 is an ST flight combat game coming from Avalon Hill this summer. We also picked up an 8-bit review copy of their Guderian wargame.

And back at the bustling Atari booth, we got a look at Bentley Bear Goes To School -- a new ST educational series programmed in Israel and featuring the lovable bruin from the Crystal Castle arcade game. Four titles for grades K-6 are to be marketed within 30 days and there will eventually be some 20 in the series. The animation in each title such as Magical Mathematics is of very high quality and the packages will sell for \$19.95 apiece.

OTHER NEWS

This year Atari vice president Leonard Tramiel revealed that a 16-bit graphics workstation is in a fairly advanced stage of development. This would be compatible with the ST but much more powerful. He said that any 32-bit multitasking computer would need to run Unix, but it was a problem deciding which competing version of Unix would be best.

Marketing communications director Neil Harris stated that ST Word Perfect, due in July, runs five times faster than the bestselling IBM version.

Harris explained that Atari's top priority at this particular CES was to revitalize the 8-bit line by packaging a redesigned 65XE as a high-end game system, in direct competition with Nintendo and Sega. That's why the Mega ST and the Atari Laser Printer were not displayed this time. According to Harris, the XE Game System was receiving an enthusiastic early response from mass-market purchasing agents.

OSS MAC/65

Just got the notice on GENie that OSS will stop ALL shipments of the MAC/65 ROM on August 1, 1987. No explanation, but there it is. Also, OSS is offering a deal for all Atari User Group members as follows:

MAC/65 cart
All needed DOCS
Tool Kit Disk
For \$45 + \$3 shipping.

To order, send check/money order/Visa #/MC # AND PROOF OF USER GROUP MEMBERSHIP to:

OSS, Inc.
1221-B Kentwood Ave.
San Jose, CA 95129

All orders must be received before July 31, 1987 to be honored.

*Information taken from a message by
Marty Albert on 'The Express' 'choo choo'
BBS in Missouri!

ST-Report (c)1987 Ron Kovacs
July 18, 1987
Issue #3

A publication of Zmagazine Information Network,
(201) 966-8148 300/1200 24 hrs. 80 Column ASCII
edition available on Gateway BBS, (609) 931-3014
300/1200 24 hrs.

10 Secrets of ATARI

1. Nolan Bushnell, Atari's founding father, originally named the company Syzygy (the sun, moon, and earth in total eclipse). He renamed it to Atari because another company already owned the name Syzygy.

2. Bushnell is generally believed to be the author of Pong, Atari's first game. Actually, Magnavox released the Odyssey 100, the first home video game system, which included a game remarkably similar to Pong, several months before Pong's debut in the arcades in 1972. Years later, Bushnell admitted in court that he had seen an Odyssey prototype on display earlier in 1972. The Odyssey 100 was designed by Ralph Baer.

3. Bally/Midway rejected Bushnell's Pong when he demonstrated the game

in its Chicago offices in 1972. Bushnell went back to California and started Atari.

4. Given a choice between Mappy and Pole Position, two arcade creations by the Japanese firm Namco, Bally/Midway amazingly opted for Mappy. Atari had to settle for Pole Position, which went on to become the biggest game of 1983.

5. Gravitar was one of Atari's worst-selling arcade games. So they took the game out of the cabinets and converted them all to Black Widow.

6. Mike Hally designed Gravitar. He recently redeemed himself as the project leader for Atari's spectacular Star Wars game.

7. Rick Mauer never programmed another game for Atari after he did Space Invaders for the VCS. He is said to have earned only \$11,000 for a game that grossed more than \$100 million.

8. Todd Fry, on the other hand, has collected close to \$1 million in royalties for his widely criticized VCS Pac-Man.

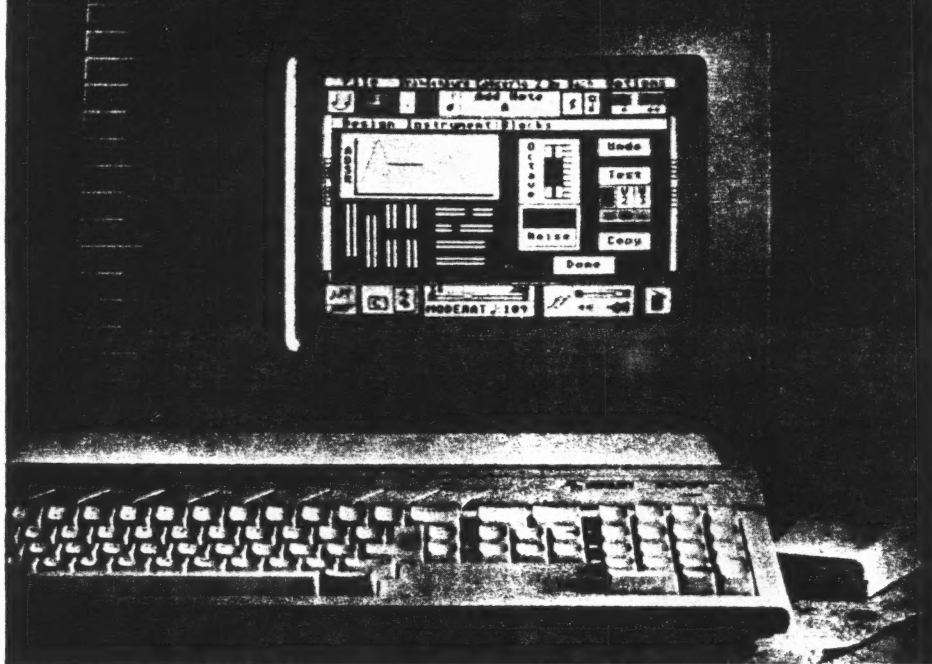
9. The man for bringing Pac-Man home to Atari- Joe Robbins, former president of coin-op, was severely reprimanded by the chairman of the board Ray Kassar for making the deal with Namco without consulting him. It seems Robbins was in Japan negotiating a legal matter with Namco at the time, and Namco demanded that Atari buy the home rights to Pac-Man as part of the settlement. Pac-Man had yet to take off, but when it did, Robbins' gutsy decision paid off as Pac-Man went on to become the company's best selling cartridge ever.

10. The man for bringing E.T. to Atari? None other than Warner Communications chairman, Steve Ross. So convinced was he that E.T. possessed video game star quality, Ross paid Steven Spielberg an enormous sum (did I hear \$21 million?) for the rights to the little extraterrestrial bugger. Designer Howie Warshaw spun the game out in four months, only three million cartridges were sold and Atari began to announce million dollar losses. E.T. is now selling for as little as \$5 in some stores.

ZMAG 1987



MIDI STANDARD



A MIDI port comes standard only with ATARI ST™ Computers. No additional interface is needed—just plug in and play. And with its price under \$800, you can own a complete MIDI music studio for less than you'd pay for other computers alone. And that doesn't even include the extra \$250 they can charge you for the interface.

The 520ST™ computer has power to spare, with over half a million characters of memory for even the largest compositions, and an ultra fast processor chip so the computer keeps up with your beat.

In fact, the editor of Musician magazine, Jack Baird, wrote in the May '87 issue:

"... the biggest single winner at the North American Music Manufacturers' show was probably not a music manufacturer, but a computer maker ... the incredibly affordable ATARI ST. If 1986 was dubbed the year of sampling, my call is for '87 to be the year of ATARI."

STANDARD MIDI... THE MIDI STANDARD

ATARI®

© Atari Corporation, Sunnyvale, CA 94086
ATARI, ST, SC1224, SF364 and 520ST are trademarks of Atari Corporation.

The OASIS BBS

A Software Review
By Dave St. Martin

"It's time for an upgrade!" said I. Having run an Atari bulletin board that had become one of the "elder statesman" among bulletin boards in San Antonio with virtually the same format for three years an upgrade was more than due, it was a necessity.

Like most SYSOPs, I wanted a system with slick, well-executed features that would make the competition sit up and cry. I began evaluating BBS software in a fashion that many SYSOPs overlook during the search for THE ideal system. This time I looked at systems from the users point of view.

I was surprised at what I had come to desire. Waiting time was the PITS even at 1200 baud. Loading modules, loading messages, waiting for menus to finish listing to enter a command just wasn't cutting it anymore.

Users had become more sophisticated since the good 'ol days. So had I. As a SYSOP my criteria was refined to the point that I had little patience for system errors. This was in line with my philosophy that a SYSOP's time should be reserved for creativity on the system itself and not consumed in the maintenance & repair department.

Having acquired assistant SYSOPs over the years remote functions were important as well as any feature designed to allow ease of maintenance. After reading, talking to SYSOPs, and actually testing several existing systems I settled on the OASIS Bulletin Board System by Renner, Ralph Walden, and Leo Newman.

After five months of use I'm convinced the system is the currently the best available on the 8-Bit Atari line.

In order to cover the OASIS BBS in a systematic fashion let me proceed in a way the average SYSOP will understand. I'll take the system from configuration through daily operation.

-- CONFIGURING --

I obtained my copy of OASIS through Leo Newman of the HELP BBS in Wichita, Kansas and found that it was fully configured for a single disk drive when it arrived. This is a nice touch for that SYSOP just itching to get it "up & running". There were a couple documentation files on the back side of the disk which I promptly printed out and began to follow. It wasn't too long before I found that one of the weaknesses of the OASIS System was the documentation. While adequate in some areas, others leave much to be desired. I find that I read docs a little more closely than most people.

I found the docs to be the single

Continued on Next Page

Obviously placing these on a RAM-disk is advantageous in terms of speed, and the OASIS system is characteristically fast.

There are two files that play key roles in the functioning of this system. SETUP.RES is the primary configuration file. It determines which drives are active, user time limits and privileges, the location of the message bases and how they'll be handled, and the modem configuration. MESS.DAT contains the user prompts and is prime candidate for customization by the SYSOP to meet his/her desires.

For those of you familiar with BBS Express! the system is very similar to one used by that system, and affords a great deal of flexibility.

OASIS is designed for use with Hayes compatible modems, AVATEX modems, and allows for entry of other modems that use reset codes other than

that used by these two popular modems. Interfacing is possible with the Atari 850 Interface, ATR-8000/8500, and the new MIO by ICD, Inc.

The recommended DOS is SpartaDOS from ICD, Inc. and this DOS has performed flawlessly in conjunction with this system.

Careful configuration can result in a BBS which provides excellent 80-column support, a feature the ST crowd has come to appreciate. This is possible due to parsing of the transmitted text using screen width from 20-100 characters per line. Other options include locking out guests, new applications and 300 baud users on certain days.

-- CAPABILITIES --

Once configured, operation is smooth and extremely fast. Welcome messages for both ATASCII & ASCII callers and optional VT52 color welcome messages for FLASH! users are supported. Bulletins are shown once and then turned off until reset by the SYSOP. Viewing of the bulletins is possible at any time from the main menu.

Download functions are well-implemented throughout. There are actually five primary file areas which can each possess different attributes set by the SYSOP. Four specialized bases can be set for a variety of download methods. These include XMODEM (Both

AMODEM style and CRC), YMODEM, and Text. The number of options here require that the SYSOP plan well in advance during configuration. The main D/L file area provides for downloading "by the numbers" instead of requiring filenames to be typed in. Filenames are alphabetized by drive, and execution of the protocols is faster than usual thanks to coding in "C".

Eight regular bases and one E-Mail message base are permitted. E-Mail is automatically checked on logon. Checking of all E-Mail entries is also made for valid member names. This checking really solves the problem of misdirected mail that's so common on other systems. I found the message editor to be one area that wasn't as full-featured as those found on other BBSs, but recent upgrades have added parsing and a search and replace function. Operation of the message bases is unique in that there is no POINT-NOTE data to get scrambled (sequential access used?). I've yet to have a message base waxed. Message bases can be limited to any size under 100 messages and access time is slowed somewhat as the bases get larger. A new message feature is quite popular with my users and speeds up each session allowing for more users to call.

Message base compression can be

Continued on Next Page -->

4049 MARSHALL ROAD

KETTERING, OH 45428

MICROTYPE

A DIVISION OF MICRO PERIPHERALS, INC.

P.O. BOX 369 • KETTERING, OHIO 45409

ATARI

ST's Color or Mono	CALL
Supra 20, 30, 60 Meg	CALL
SH 204 20 Megabyte	CALL
130 XE	CALL
1050 Disk Drive	CALL
1020 Color Printer / Plotter	29
Power Supply 1050	17
Power Supply XE / XL	29
Power Supply for Indus GT	29
XE-80... 80 Column!	CALL

PRINTERS

PANASONIC:	
KX-P1080i, 120 cps	189
KX-P1091i, 160 cps	219
KX-P1092i, 240 cps	339
KX-P110 Ribbon, Blik	9

STAR:

NX-10 (80 col)	189
NP-10 NEW MODEL	149

CITIZEN:

MSP-10	CALL
--------	------

EPSON:

LX-86	CALL
FX-286E	CALL

MODEMS

XX-212 - 300 / 1200	CALL
XM-301 Direct Connect	CALL
AVATEX 1200 bps	95
AVATEX 1200 H.C.	129
AVATEX 2400 NEW	CALL

INTERFACES

P.R. CONNECTION	69
SUPRA MICROSTUFFER (64K)	59
SUPRA / MPP 1150	CALL

MONITORS

NAP Green W / Audio	85
NAP Amber W / Audio	90
NAP Composite Color	CALL

ACCESSORIES

Disk File (holds 100!) 5 1/4	13
Power Strip, Spike & Surge	15
Epyx 500XJ Joystick	14
6" Atari Serial I/O Cable	8
U.S. DOUBLER w / DOS	49
U.S. DOUBLER no DOS	29
"Duplicator" for 1050 Disk Drive	89

PRINTER SUPPLIES

MAILING LABELS, White, 500 pk	4
PAPER, Micro Perfs 500 sheets	8

8-BIT SOFTWARE

Action	46
Action Tool Kit	19
Alternate Reality	25
Atari Writer	35
Auto Duel	34
Award Ware	12
B-Graph	25
Basic XE	46
Basic XL	36
Basic XL Tool Kit	19
Bop 'n' Wrestle	21
Champ LodeRunner	18
Chessmaster 2000	27
F-15 Strike Eagle	21
Fight Night	20
Flight Simulator II	34
Scenery Disks	ea 15
Scenery Disk Set	74
Fraction Action	21

Ft Apocalypse	7
Gemstone Warrior	12
Gettysburg	39
Gunslinger	20
Hardball	11
Hitchhiker's Guide	23
Home Accountant	27
Infiltrator	19
Karateka	18
Kickstart	7
Last V-8	7
Leader Board	25
Leather Goddesses	22
Loderunner	23
MAC / 65	46
MAC / 65 Tool Kit	19
Mastertype	27
Mega Font II	16
Mercenary	20
Merc Data Disks	ea 12
Millionaire	15
Moon Mist	22
Movie Maker	21
M.U.L.E.	11
Music Const. Set	11
Music Studio	24
Never Ending Story	21

NINJA	7
Page Designer	20
Paper Clip w / Spell	38
Pawn	25
Phantassie I or II	25
Pinball Const. Set	11
Planetarium	19
PrintShop	28
PrintShop Companion	24
Graphics Libraries	16
PS Interface	18
R-Time-8 Cart	48
Racing Destruction	28
Rambo XL	28
Reforger 88	12
Rubber Stamp	20
Silent Service	24
Sixgun Shootout	27
Sparta DOS-X Cart	49
Speed King	7
Spy vs. Spy I & II	21
Star Fleet I	35
Star Raiders II	13
Strip Poker	19
S.P. Data Disks	ea 13
Super Boulderdash	11
Syn-Calc	31

Syn-Calc Templates	14
Sny-File Plus	31
Timewise	3
Top Gunner	17
Touchdown Football	11
Trail Blazer	21
Triple Pack	1

set to occur either manually or automatically. The automated version occurs with each logoff and only in the message bases specified during configuration. Message bases are at the heart of any BBS and the OASIS BBS does an admirable job in this area.

-- OTHER FEATURES --

The board is hot-keyed throughout permitting immediate execution of commands even while a menu is listing. This feature really appeals to experienced users. Online HELP is available for the less experienced folks as are the usual listings of other BBSs. The user can redefine screen width and translation modes at anytime, and short prompts save time for expert users. These parameters are saved in the users profile for future use. A status command permits viewing of privileges, file transfers, and call data. Limited editing is permitted.

-- SYSOP FUNCTIONS --

In my search for the ideal BBS much consideration was given to ease of operation from a SYSOP standpoint. OASIS allows online validation and easy editing of a user privileges. The SYSOP can drop into one of two SYSOP menus that permit most SpartaDOS functions, manual message base compaction, resetting of date & time, and various other BBS parameters. The terminal mode is a feature that sets this board apart from others, and it permits access to the U/L-D/L protocols as well as providing easy modem access.

The wait-ring mode provides a graphic depiction of the number of messages in each base including those that have been deleted. Totals for the number of calls, new messages, file transfers, and type of callers is also provided. The SYSOP can electively lock out guests, new P/W applications, 300 baud callers, and toggle the chat mode to ring for the SYSOP or state their absence. Online time, file transfer status, and current date/time are also provided in the well thought out display.

Validation of passwords can be accomplished either online or through the use of a password editing utility. The utility permits searching based on call dates, and other utilities produce an alphabetized SYSOP P/W listing or user list for posting on the BBS. Sorting of the listings is extremely fast thanks to the speed of the "C" language. I might add that no knowledge of "C" is necessary to use this system.

With a user online the SYSOP can reset elapsed user time to zero, send a user through the password application, and log the user off politely or rather abruptly. In the chat mode four SYSOP definable macros can be sent through a simple control key sequence. This permits the standard phrases like "Catch 'ya later..." and "Validating your

P/W..." to be sent with ease. A SYSOP may also read the E-Mail base as a regular message base. This permits easy maintenance. All messages may be deleted, undeleted and locked. There are two SYSOP levels to permit limited access for assistant SYSOPs if desired.

From an operators standpoint the OASIS system is superior to all other bulletin boards I've seen to date, and this was the decisive factor in my decision to reconfigure with OASIS.

-- SUPPORT --

Product support is something that has come to mean a lot to me. In most cases it's all hype. I'm pleased to report that support for this system, by way of the HELP BBS (316-683-7514), is nothing short of excellent. Upgrades are frequently posted for downloading by registered SYSOPs and mainly consist of new features and occasionally a fix for a bug. In terms of reliability the OASIS system is hard to beat. I have yet to have a system crash that I could attribute to the board itself - most were created by yours truly.

To a harried operator like myself, I prefer jazzing up the BBS to troubleshooting. This system delivers reliability at a level to which I'm totally unaccustomed.

-- CONCLUSIONS --

The users of any bulletin board are the bottom line when it comes to evaluation. From them I've heard

nothing but praise for the system. My users have crowed about this system to other SYSOPs in the area to the point four other boards have made the conversion. The other SYSOPs feel the same as I do about this system -- in a word "OUTSTANDING!"

Despite a lengthy configuration process and weak documentation the OASIS Bulletin Board System remains, in my opinion, the best available for the 8-bit Atari. I have recommended to some first-time SYSOPs that they consider another system due to the above, but for the experienced system operator it sells itself. Ohio yes, I almost forgot -- the cost? -- all of \$15.00!

OASIS Bulletin Board Software is available through:

Leo Newman - The HELP BBS in Wichita, Kansas (316)-683-7514

To order send a Money order for \$15.00 to:

Leo Newman
3900 N Woodlawn #17 Chisholm
Wichita, Kansas. 67220

The above mentioned documentation problem has been corrected in new updated documentation that is being supplied with the OASIS Bulletin Board..

I might also point out one other minor mistake in this review, the BBS was written with Mac C/65, but all support files were written in C.

(Ed: This is the BBS software used on the MVACE BBS) *****



Even MAX says that the ACES are A WESOME!

Treasurer/Secretary Sideline

By Marty Freed

As I discussed in the last month's newsletter, I was working on a new set of by-laws. Well, the by-laws are complete and are attached as part of this column. Please, look them over. They will be brought up for a vote at the next business meeting. By the way, I want to thank the officers for their comments on the by-laws, especially Bruce Hansford.

Our membership continues to grow. Over the last month, the club brought in several new members as well as renewals of all the members that were due to renew. All in all this is a very good sign. Remember to pass your newsletter around. This, as well as your own ambassadorship, attracts new members. I want to welcome on behalf of the club the following new members:

Andy Salisbury - Fairborn
Jeff Engle - Beavercreek
Jon Fordyce - New Carlisle
Mike Phillips - Dayton
Dan Steffen - Englewood



I want also thank the following members who have renewed:

William Randolph
Frank Schaaf
Larry McGrew



The following are the PROPOSED BY-LAWS for MVACE

MIAMI VALLEY ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS
Rules and By-Laws
March, 1982
Constitution for the
Miami Valley Atari Computer Enthusiasts
Dayton, Ohio

Article I: OBJECT AND PURPOSE

1. To promote the use of Atari Computers.
2. Educate the members in computer system skills including the use of languages, hardware and software products concerning Atari computers.

Article II: NAME

1. The organization shall be known as the Miami Valley Atari Computer Enthusiasts (MVACE).

Article III: ETHICS

1. The organization will not under any circumstances condone any act(s) of piracy.

Article IV: AFFILIATIONS

1. The Miami Valley Atari Computer Enthusiasts is in no way affiliated with the Atari Corporation.
2. The organization is non-profit, non-political, and non-sectarian.
3. Anyone interested in Atari Computers is welcome to join our organization.

Article V: MEETINGS

1. The organization's meeting place is C.A.Y.A.C. (Kittyhawk School), 5758 Harshmanville Road in Huber Heights, Ohio (just two blocks south

Powell Road intersection).

2. The business meeting shall be held on the second Saturday of each month unless otherwise indicated in the newsletter or by phone call.

3. The officers' meeting shall be held directly after the business meeting.

4. Swap and Copy sessions shall be held on the third Saturday of each month.

Article VI: NEWSLETTER/MEMBERSHIP

1. Any person joining the organization shall automatically receive the organization's newsletter for the period of membership.

2. The period of membership is one year.

3. The membership dues is \$20.00 for new members and \$15.00 for renewals.

4. The membership dues shall only be used for covering the expenses of the organization such as the newsletter preparation and distribution, electronic bulletin board maintenance and upgrade, software library maintenance, and other expenses that are deemed necessary by the board of trustees to maintain the objectives of the organization.

ARTICLE VII: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. A quorum shall consist of members of the Board of Trustees.

2. Officers shall serve a term beginning the second Saturday of April until the second Saturday of April of the following year.

3. Nominations from the membership at large will be accepted at the business meeting held in March.

4. Election of officers will be by written ballot.

- a. In the event that a nominee is unopposed for office, a show of hands may elect that nominee.

- b. Officers shall consist of: President, Vice-President, Treasurer/Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Librarians, and Electronic Bulletin Board Sysop.

- c. Election of officers shall be held at the monthly business meeting in April of each year.

- d. A majority of the votes cast shall suffice to elect a nominee to an office.

ARTICLE VIII: RESIGNATION AND REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS

1. If the President cannot complete the term of office to which he/she was elected, the vice-president will assume the office for the remainder of the current term.

2. A special election will be held in accordance with ARTICLE VII to fill any other vacant office for the remainder of the current term.

3. The departing officer shall immediately collect any money or property belonging to the organization that is under his/her control and transfer control of them to the treasurer/secretary.

ARTICLE IX: DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

1. President

- a. Shall call to order, conduct, preside over, and close all meetings.

- b. Shall supervise all raffles or drawings.

- c. In general, see that the organization functions smoothly and conducts itself according to its purpose and guidelines.

2. Vice-President

- a. Shall function as president in the

president's absence.

b. Assist the president in conducting all meetings.

c. Must be ready to succeed to the office of president if that office is permanently vacated.

d. Shall select software, hardware, and lectures to be presented at the business meetings and schedule them with the approval of the president.

3. Treasurer/Secretary

a. Shall keep the minutes of the business meetings, board meetings and conduct all correspondence.

b. Shall receive all money such as membership fees, coffee fund money, and library fees.

c. Shall maintain the organizations books showing all amounts received and dispersed and shall report to the organization on the state of the treasury.

d. Shall have all the books, ledgers, and checkbooks available at all the meetings and subject them to audit when requested by the board of trustees.

e. Shall disperse all monies required to cover all organization debts.

4. Librarians

a. Shall maintain all public domain software acquired by the organization and make it available to all members when ordered and at the monthly swap session.

b. Shall maintain the commercial software library.

c. Shall make available all articles and books purchased by or donated to the organization for its members.

5. Newsletter Editor

a. Shall compile the newsletter.

b. May act as a representative of the organization in order to procure monies for advertisement or paid articles to be published in the organization's newsletter.

c. Shall publish the newsletter on a monthly basis.

d. Arrange for any organization advertising.

6. Bulletin Board Sysop

a. Maintain and control the organization's electronic bulletin board system.

b. Organize the member support for bulletin board activities.

c. Assure that no pirated software is transferred through or maintained on the bulletin board system.

ARTICLE X: BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. A quorum of the board of trustees shall consist of a majority of its members.

2. The Board of Trustees shall consist of the following:

- a. President
- b. Vice-President
- c. Treasurer/Secretary
- d. Librarians (16-bit and 8-bit)
- e. Newsletter Editor
- f. Bulletin Board Sysop
- g. Former Presidents

3. Duties of the board shall be to consult with the President, and advise and vote on all matters concerning the membership and the business of the organization.

4. A board member may be replaced after two

(2) unexcused absences.

5. Has the right to revoke any membership.

ARTICLE XI: MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATIONS

1. Applications for membership in the organization shall be submitted to the treasurer/secretary to be placed on file.

2. Applicants are allowed three visits before a decision on joining the organization must be made.

3. No member should discuss organization business outside the business meetings.

4. All group discounts on products offered to the organization shall be available to all members according to the requirements of the discount.

5. Any commercial or business announcements made at the business or swap meetings must be approved by a majority of the board trustees.

ARTICLE XII: DISBANDMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION

1. The remaining members of the Board of Trustees may, with good reason, put forth a motion to disband the organization.

2. A minimum of four (4) board members must approve this motion or the motion will be dropped.

3. If such a motion is carried and approved, all members of the organization will be notified by mail of a vote for disbandment, at the following month's business meeting.

4. If attending membership meets quorum and the vote by the membership favors the motion for disbandment, then the organization will disband.

5. All properties owned by the organization shall be collected and brought under the control of the Treasurer/Secretary and he/she will donate the properties to a charitable organization or convert the properties to monies by an organization auction, whichever the Board of Trustees desires.

6. All monies both those available prior to an auction of any organization property and those accrued as a result of the auction shall be dispersed to all the members equally after all expenses are paid in full.

ARTICLES XIII: AMMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS TO BY-LAWS

1. Any amendments or additions to these by-laws must be submitted to the board of trustees for approval and voted upon by the membership at the next business meeting, after publication in the organization's newsletter.

2. A majority of the membership representing a quorum at this business meeting voting in favor of the amendments or additions to the by-laws shall be sufficient for their adoption into the by-laws.

3. Upon passage of the amendments or additions, the by-laws will be modified immediately by the Treasurer/Secretary.

4. The amendments or additions shall be in effect as of the vote.



<----- Is
this the
Sword of
Kadash?
Turn the
page and
read about
it....

Sword of Kadash

Reviewed by Kervyn Mach
MVACE

Abandoned by your guide, you are stranded in an endless Persian desert with only a water bottle. As you wonder how long it will be before your bones join the countless others there, you are taken captive by a band of desert warriors. They give you a choice. Either you retrieve the enchanted Sword of Kadash from its hiding place in the catacombs under the Fortress of the Dragon or they will kill you on the spot. Any other treasure you bring out of the catacombs is yours to keep; they want only the sword, which is sacred to them. There's only one catch. No one has ever come out of the catacombs.

That's the scenario of the Sword of Kadash, a fantasy adventure from Penguin Software. Originally written for the Apple and Commodore home computers, it has been adapted for the Atari ST and lists for \$39.95, although it is available from at least one retailer at \$18.95. Its ancestry is evidenced by the instruction sheets and the screen graphics. The main sheet mentions the Apple and Commodore computers and gives the details of play, while a smaller sheet gives the particulars of ST use. Screen graphics take no advantage of the resolution of the ST screen; what you get are Commodore 64-style blocks with stairstep diagonals.

Play begins as you stand at the entrance to the catacombs with your captors behind you. Before entering, you can choose to guide your character through the maze with the keyboard (the L key and the 8 keys surrounding it), the mouse, or a joystick. The joystick, being the most natural of the three, is easily the most satisfactory. If you choose the mouse (Control M), a small circle with a dot in the center appears at the lower right of the screen. You guide your character by moving the mouse, which shifts the dot about in the circle. The character moves in the direction the dot shifts. Control K gives keyboard control, which is the default, and Control J gives joystick control.

Play proceeds as is usual in games of this type. You are initially armed with dagger, but may pick up other weapons as you find them. All weapons can inflict damage at a distance; this is depicted by darts traveling across the screen and by a sound like Dirty Harry's 44 Magnum. Be careful! The darts can ricochet and if they hit you, you can lose some of your initial 2000 hit points. Along the way you will encounter various snakes, spiders, bats, ghosts, etc. You may engage them in combat, either from a distance with your current weapon, or hand-to-hand.

You gain experience points from the damage you inflict on them, but you lose hit points from the damage they inflict on you. When your 2000 hit points are gone, so are you. Some treasures will add to your hit point total, but you'll see the death's head sooner than you expected. You are automatically reincarnated a certain number of times, depending on your experience level. You lose all weapons except the dagger, and all treasure. A push of the space bar starts you off with 2000 new hit

points at the spot you died. Better luck this time!

For the last word in critical evaluation, I sought the comments of my teenage son and some of his friends. Their reaction: "Ho-Hum. Swords of Kadash is about average for games of this type, with no outstanding qualities either way." So, if you already have a hunt for treasure in the dungeon game, you probably wouldn't want to buy this one. On the other hand, if you're thinking of buying one, you might settle on Swords of Kadash. I did.



ST DISK DRIVES INSIDE AND OUT

by Abacus Software Inc.
Reviewed by Dan Catterlin
MVACE July, 1987

I think a better title for this book would be "Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Disk Drive", but I guess that is a little long isn't it. Well with over 400 pages, this book is long and packed to overflowing with stats and information about your ST disk drives. Some of the information was very useful, but other parts were a little too technical for me. (I'm a computer user not a electronics specialist.)

The book starts off at a beginners level with a basic explanation of how data is stored on a disk, the structure of a disk with its tracks and sectors and toward the end becomes very technical revealing many secrets of the 3 1/2" floppy drive, the hard disk drive, and even ram disks. You really get the grand tour of how the computer works with the drive to store and retrieve that data we all just take for granted. For the serious programmer there is all the software and hardware information to let you make the best use of your disk storage. Some of the topics covered in this book

are File Structure and Organization, Access to Sequential and Random Access Data Files from Basic, Pascal, C, and Fortran, Basic Input and Output Systems (BIOS), Direct Memory Access (DMA), Disk Formats, And Disk Controllers. Information is also included about the cable connections and pin functions of all important hardware locations. Even information on how to hook-up a 5 1/4" floppy drive to your ST. This maybe valuable information when a good IBM-PC emulator hits the market.

There are even several useful program listings for those people ambitious enough to type them in, or you can buy the optional diskette with every program in the book already on it. These programs includes a simple Data Base program, a Ram Disk program, a Disk Editor, and a extended Format program to name a few.

If you need an outstanding technical reference manual for the ST disk drives listing all the information you could ever use about disk drive, this is the book you have been waiting for. I would recommend this book for any serious programmer who wanting to get the most out his drives and with a price of only \$24.95 (as low as \$16 mail order) it's not that costly. But for the beginner there are other books better suited to your skill level.



MVACE ST DISK ORDER FORM



Disk Price
\$3.00 (Members)
\$5.00 (Non-Members)

Disks requested

Your Name _____

Disk No. _____ Price: \$ _____

Disk No. _____ Price: \$ _____

Disk No. _____ Price: \$ _____

Disk No. _____ Price: \$ _____

Totals: _____ Price: \$ _____

Bring this form to a meeting or send to:
Doug Hodson, ST Library, 4953 Westmoreland Ct.,
Apt. A., Dayton, OH 45431

MVACE 8-BIT DISK ORDER FORM



Disk Price
\$2.00 (Members)
\$4.00 (Non-Members)

Disks requested

Your Name _____

Disk No. _____ Price: \$ _____

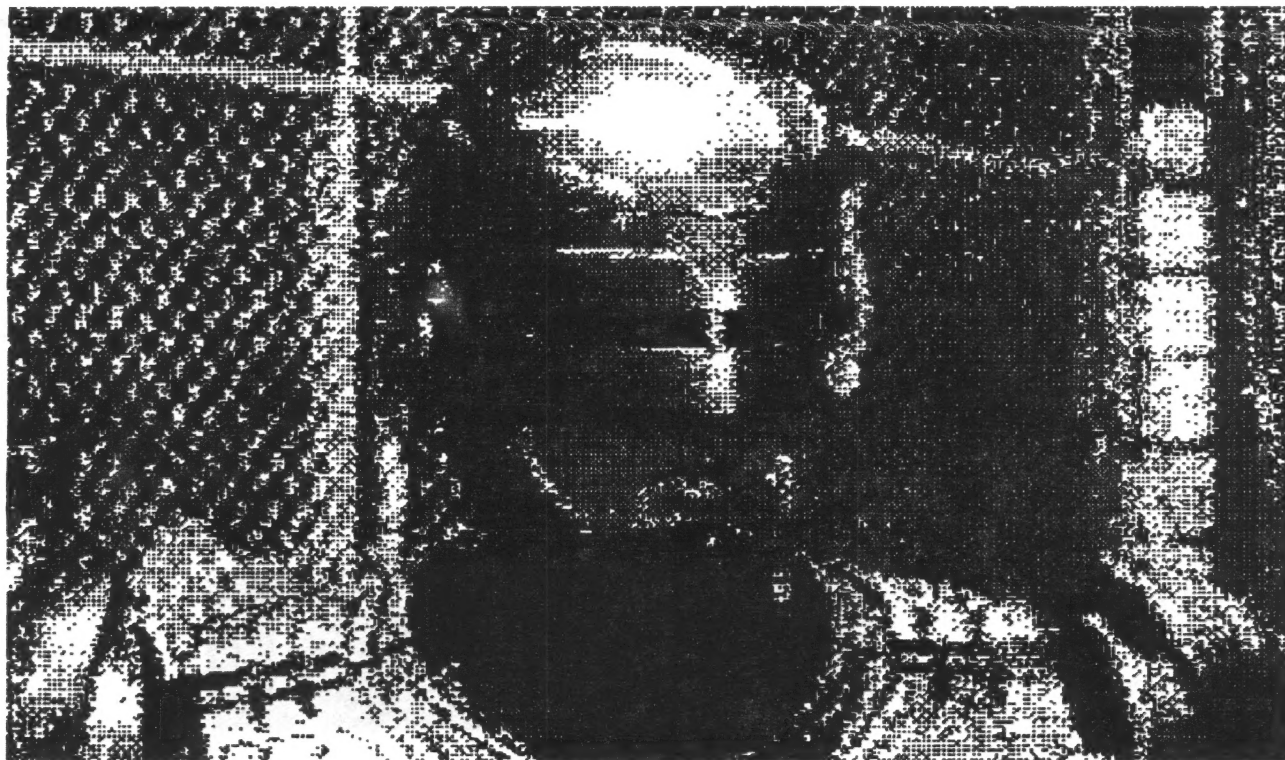
Disk No. _____ Price: \$ _____

Disk No. _____ Price: \$ _____

Disk No. _____ Price: \$ _____

Totals: _____ Price: \$ _____

Bring this form to a meeting or send to:
Earl Breon, 6107 Farmborough Dr.,
Huber Heights, OH 45424



ROBOCOP SAYS: "DO NOT FORGET COMPUTERFEST ON 22 AND 23 AUGUST. DO NOT FORGET THE MVACE PICNIC ON 30 AUGUST. DO NOT FORGET TO WRITE THOSE REVIEWS AND ARTICLES. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION, AND HAVE A NICE DAY."

MVACE MEMBERSHIP FORM

NEW _____ RENEW _____ DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

COMPUTER(S) OWNED _____

EXTRA DRIVE(S) _____ HARD DISK _____ PRINTER _____ MODEM _____

FAVORITE PROGRAMS _____

IF NEW, HOW DID YOU HEAR OF MVACE? 2M _____

I agree to abide by the bylaws of the Miami Valley Atari Computer Enthusiasts (MVACE)

SIGNATURE _____

BRING THIS FORM WITH \$20 FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP OR \$15 FOR RENEWAL TO ANY MVACE MEETING
OR SEND IT TO THE MVACE TREASURER: MARTY FREED, 5565 BARBANNA LANE, DAYTON, OH 45415.

The MVACE NEWS
& Newsletter Exchange
Bruce Hansford - Editor
4551 Glenheath Drive
Kettering, OH 45440



J.A.C.G. Newsletter
8 Crescent Road
Pine Brook, NJ 07058

CLUB